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ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE BECAUSE OF DISEASE.

NEW JERSEY COURT REFUSES TO ANNUL A MARRIAGE FOR FRAUD IN CONCEALING AN HEREDITARY TAIN OF INSANITY.

A marriage may, under some circumstances, be annulled by the courts because one party concealed from the other the fact that he or she was suffering from a communicable disease. The limitations of this legal principle are discussed in the opinion of the New Jersey Court of Chancery in *Allen v. Allen* (p. 733 of this issue of the Public Health Reports).

The wife sought an annulment of the marriage on the ground that the husband had concealed from her the fact that several members of his family had been insane, but the court decided that, in the absence of a statute, courts could not annul marriages for fraud in concealing disease except when the disease was of such a nature as to render contact seriously dangerous to the other party to the marriage.

DEATH RATES OF THE COLORED POPULATION.

THEIR TREND AND SIGNIFICANCE IN THE UNITED STATES.¹

By JOHN W. TRASK, Assistant Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service.

By the colored population in the present instance is meant the negro population, although in the discussion which follows, rates published by the Bureau of the Census, including Negro, Chinese, Japanese, and Indian will be used. The Chinese, Japanese, and Indian factors have been practically eliminated, however, by using for comparison only population groups containing these elements to a relatively negligible extent.

According to the census of 1910, the total population of the United States (exclusive of outlying possessions) was over 91,000,000, and the negro population over 9,000,000. In many localities the negro population constitutes from 20 to 50 per cent of the total. In the study of local mortality rates, therefore, the death rates of the colored (negro) population merit separate attention. This is more

¹ Read before the Vital Statistics Section of the American Public Health Association, Rochester, N. Y., Sept. 20, 1915.